

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 12, 2016**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session at 12:00 p.m. Thursday, May 12, 2016 in the Main Court Room, 202 Court Street, Gatesville. Commissioners Hofler, Jordan, Owens, Felton and Freeman were present. Also present was County Manager, Natalie Rountree and Finance Director, Sandy Pittman. EMS Board Members, Ray Felton, Clarence Winn, Tom Morgan and Don Gregory were present as well as EMS Chief, Stormy Butts.

Commissioner Hofler led in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hofler called the meeting to order.

The Board expressed their concerns with how some of the requested EMS funding was to be spent specifically the increase in salaries. Mr. Felton stated the salary increase was intended to help with employee retention, the salary increase is cheaper than continuing to train new employees. Gates County is trying to compete with other counties and keep younger employees that do not have a supplemental retirement check. Chief Butts reminded the Board of Commissioners there are less people willing to volunteer now and more paid staff is required. They have no control and cannot force volunteers to come to work.

Chief Butts stated due to vehicle maintenance issues, a salary increase will not be recommended. Two ambulances now need to be repaired or replaced and is the greatest priority at this time in order to continue providing service.

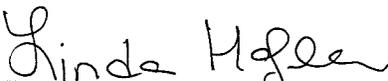
Ray Freeman made a motion to approve the \$353,175 funding for EMS in the budget which is an additional \$328,175 from previously allocated funds. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

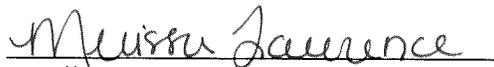
The Board discussed petitioning legislators to try to get the EMS funding that was cut by the change to a metropolitan area restored.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion to allow for a four cent tax increase to cover EMS funding. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion; Commissioners Hofler, Owens, Jordan and Freeman voted in Favor and Commissioner Felton voted against. Motion passed four to one.

**Adjournment**

The Board recessed until the regular meeting on May 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

  
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Linda Hofler, Chairman

  
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Melissa C. Lawrence, Clerk

GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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